(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the reasons for delay in this regard together with the details of time bound programme formulated to remit the balance amount and by when the amount is likely to be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) (a) to (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary was introduced from 1993-94. This scheme aims at supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and is confined to construction of Court Buildings and residences for the Judges. One of the main criteria of the scheme is that the State Government must provide a matching share to the amount allocated by the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 122 lakhs has been released to Tripura from 1993-94 to 1996-97. During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 20 lakhs as first instalment of Central share has been released to Tripura out of the tentative allocation of Rs. 40 lakhs for this financial year.

Constitutional amendment for appointment of Judges

759. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bring amendment in the constitution regarding the procedure for the appointment of High Courts and Supreme Court Judges;

(b) what are the details of the amendment and its scope?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The Government felt it necessary to amend the Constitution to reiterate and spell out the intent of the framers of the Constitution clearly and unambiguously with a view to keep it beyond the pale of any contraversy. Accordingly, the Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 was circulated to members of the Lok Sabha in March, 1997.

Setting up of development fund for Tourism

760. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have initiated any proposal to set up development fund for tourism with a view to finance small infrastructure projects undertaken by State Governments and non-Government Organisations (NGO) throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have issued any guidelines; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details have not been finalised.

Memorandum by IATO for reforming Tourism Policy

761. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of State Tourism Ministers was recently held at New Delhi to discuss mainly proposal contained in the Draft National Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, details of the agenda discussed and decisions taken;

(c) whether Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) have submitted a memorandum to Government seeking appropriate policy reform for promotion and development of tourism in the country to tap vast untapped potential in tourism industry; and